Help Wanted!

If you would like to earn extra money driving a snow plow this winter, call the regional office nearest you: Phil Whitting, Region I Netcong, 201-347-4415; Robert Micai, Region II Newark, 201-648-2278; Gene Shoup, Region III Freehold, 201-308-4100, and Bob Stewart, Region IV Cherry Hill, 609-428-6550.

transporter

For the employees and retirees of the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Florio proclaims ridesharing month

Governor Jim Florio presented Commissioner Tom Downs with a proclamation designating September as Ridesharing Month at recent Statehouse ceremonies.

The proclamation also urged citizens to observe September 26 as Alternative Commute Day by trying out a car- or vanpool, or by bicycling, walking or using public transportation on that day.

Trenton area NJDOTers who shared the ride in some way on September 26 received free breakfasts and water bottles for participating.

In addition, Florio taped radio public service announcements highlighting the importance of ridesharing and introducing a new toll-free number for carpool, vanpool, bus and train information, **1-800-626-RIDE.** The number and the radio spots were produced by NJ TRANSIT and NJDOT.

"The reasons to try ridesharing keep multiplying," Florio said at the news conference. "The volatile situation in the Middle East has reminded us once again that we must seize every opportunity to conserve fuel. The Persian Gulf crisis has already been reflected in higher prices at the gasoline pumps.

Commissioner Tom Downs, Governor Jim Florio and McRIDES Executive Director Judith Schleicher at Statehouse ceremonies proclaiming Ridesharing Month.

"Just as critical to New Jersey as rising fuel prices is the fact that this state is not in compliance with federal air quality standards on ozone and carbon monoxide," Florio added. "Failure to meet those standards in 1991 and 1992 could very easily cause us to lose critically needed federal highway dollars in years to come."

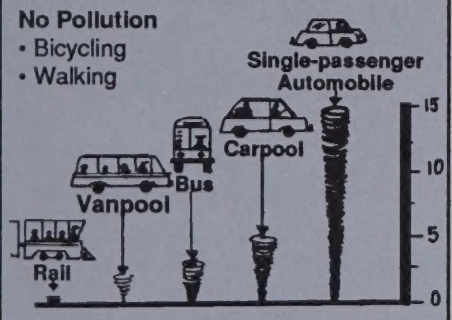
Commissioner Downs noted that the use of buses, trains, carpools and vanpools benefits all citizens by reducing the wear and tear on New Jersey's highway network, a $50 billion taxpayer investment.

"Last year we traveled **59 BILLION vehicle miles** on New Jersey's roads and most of those miles were in single passenger vehicles," Downs said. "That's a tremendous burden for our aging infrastructure to bear. If more of us would share the ride or use a bus or train whenever we can, we could significantly extend the useful life of our roads and bridges."

Spare the air

Emission of Carbon Monoxide*

(Estimated grams per passenger mile for work trips)



*Limits the blood's ability to transport oxygen to body tissues, can cause dizziness, headaches, impaired coordination and death.

Source: APTA

Group to find ways to boost ridesharing; NJDOT to set an example

Commissioner Tom Downs has named an Employee Transportation Committee to establish and implement a Commute Management Program for the Department.

The committee will develop specific goals for the reduction of single-passenger vehicles at the Headquarters Complex including consideration of pilot programs in flextime and telecommuting.

"Peak hour congestion on our roads and the need to reduce pollution and our reliance on fossil fuels require that we discourage the use of single-passenger vehicles," said Downs. "As a major employer in our own right, our credibility demands that we do no less than we are asking others to do."

William Feldman of the Bureau of Suburban Mobility will chair the committee which will include Donald Chiacchio, Director of Support Services; Natalie Havran, Director of Human Resources, and Tony Blanda, Manager of Investigations and Security.

Human Resources News

Leaves of absence affect seniority

by Fay C. Wood

When you take a leave of absence without pay or are suspended without pay, your seniority is affected. (NOTE: Intermittent days off without pay – "W" days – are added together and considered a continuous leave without pay.)

Here are some points to consider:

• **Promotions.** The length of service in title required for promotions does **not** include periods of suspension, leaves of absence without pay and periods of layoff or furlough. The only exception is military leave.

• **Anniversary dates.** The time spent in non-pay status, including suspensions, is deductible from the total time of the rating period when calculating eligibility for annual increments. The only exceptions are military leave, education leave, days on which part-time employees are not scheduled to work, leave without pay following exhaustion of sick leave injury (SLI), leave without pay while receiving worker's compensation or leave without pay under a voluntary alternative to a layoff program.

• **Vacation leave credit.** Continuous service means service without interruption. However, periods of time in non-pay status for suspension and leaves without pay are **not** included in the years of continuous service. The only exception is military leave without pay.

• **Service awards.** Years of service are determined exactly the same as for vacation leave credit.

• **Sick leave credit.** Service credit does not accrue during a suspension or leave of absence without pay. Again, the only exception is military leave.

• **Military leave.** While someone is on military leave all seniority credits continue to accrue.

NJDOT Maintenance readies for second Snowplow Road-e-o

A bigger and better Snow Plow Road-e-o is scheduled in October to determine the best snow fighting equipment drivers and crews among NJDOT's maintenance forces.

"There will be separate five-man cab and six-ton truck categories plus a new loader class competition," said John DeMatteo, Administrative Supervisor, Maintenance. "A low bridge/spreading station will also be added to the driving course."

The Road-e-o is held in conjunction with the NJDOT's Operation Checkout, a readiness program involving snow equipment, manpower and snow fighting chemicals that is held prior to the winter season.

Competition will consist of a written/oral exam, inspection of the vehicles entered in the Road-e-o, ability to determine vehicle defects and the snow plow driving obstacle course.

Preliminary events to determine regional winners have been scheduled. Region I will be at Hopatcong State Park on October 1-2. Region II is set for the Meadowlands on October 4-5. Region III will be at Cheesequake State Park on October 9-10, and Region IV will take place at Garden State Race Track on October 15-16.

The statewide finals will be held on October 23 and 24 at Mercer County Fire School, according to DeMatteo.

Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place winners in each region and in the state competition, including the "best crew in the state." All contestants will be given a "Snow Plow Road-e-o" cap. Awards will be presented at Headquarters in November.

Suggestion earns cash for McKelvie

Regional Director George F. Keller presents a check for $625 to Richard A. McKelvie, Truck Driver, Crew 118, Netcong, as Regional Maintenance Engineer Phillip C. Whitting looks on.

McKelvie suggested that NJDOT return excess catch basin curb pieces to the foundry where they were produced for a credit to the NJDOT's account. The suggestion could save about $10,000.

Attention:
All Reservists and National Guard members

In order to provide you with the best possible service in these unusual times, the Department needs an accurate list of everyone who has status in the National Guard or Reserves. Current records only reflect your military status at the time you were hired. Some employees may have since joined the military.

If you have changed your military status since you came to the Department, please advise your division personnel coordinator and Linda Gazire, Division of Human Resources at (609) 530-2947 of your new status immediately.

— Arthur Spangenberg, NJDOT Division of Human Resources.

transporter

Governor Jim Florio
Commissioner Tom Downs

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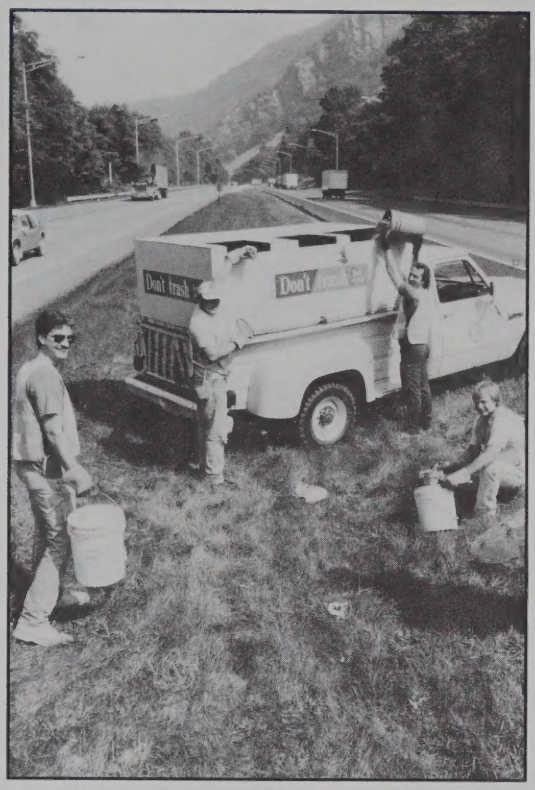
Recycling coordinators initiate Ewing area effort

Commissioner Tom Downs launched the NJDOT's expanded recycling campaign at a training session for 74 newly-appointed recycling coordinators in the Headquarters Complex and called on all employees to join the effort.

The training session for the coordinators who represented NJDOT offices in the Ewing area was conducted by Gail LeMaldi, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, who praised the NJDOT for its aggressive new campaign.

"The Department of Transportation has done a superb job in setting up its recycling program," she said. "No other state agency has developed so personalized a campaign."

LeMaldi was particularly impressed by the enthusiasm shown by the coordinators she instructed and by the posters and printed materials the NJDOT developed to inform employees of the expanded recycling program.



(Left) Maintenance crew from Columbia Yard, Region I, pose for recycling poster. (Top) Mr. R.E. Cycle uses magic to help promote recycling to Donna Inman and Beth Johnson. (Bottom) Al Driver and Barbara Haynes pose with Recycle Pete during the recycling campaign training session in the E&O Building.

People Briefs

Parents

Connie Fisher, Word Processing Specialist III, Structural Evaluation, and her husband, Dan, are the proud parents of their second child, Sharon Elizabeth.

John Kaiser, Project Engineer, Suburban Mobility, and his wife, Jill, also welcomed a daughter, Jillyan Emma.

Kenneth Gleason, Maintenance Worker I, Crew 1160, Columbia Yard, Region I, and his wife, Cynthia, are the parents of a baby boy, Jonathan Martin.

Patrick Walker, Maintenance Worker I, Crew 1160, Columbia Yard, Region I, and his wife, Dee, also had a baby boy, Roy Thomas.

Grandparents

Paul Houck, Permit Inspector, Region I, and his wife, Pearl, are first-time grandparents of a baby girl.

Adrian C. Lincoln, Manager of Acquisitions, ROW, and his wife, Anna, are grandparents of a baby girl, too. Their daughter, Irene Nemser, worked for Ridesharing.

Heroes

Roy Ford, Const. Repairer II, saved Joseph Paten, Asst. Crew Sup., Crew 465, Cumberland Yard, from falling out of his truck when his foot got stuck.

Frank L. Basek, Highway Marker, and **Richard Little**, Crew Supervisor, came to the aid of a woman with a child having a seizure. Basek, an emergency medical technician, monitored the child's vital signs while Little attended to the woman until police arrived.

Golfers

Seventy-five NJDOTers and retirees played in the 10th Annual Region I Golf Tournament at Farmstead Golf and Country Club in Andover. Low gross winner with an 82 was **Ken Afferton**, Assistant Commissioner, Design and Right of Way.

To Russia, with love

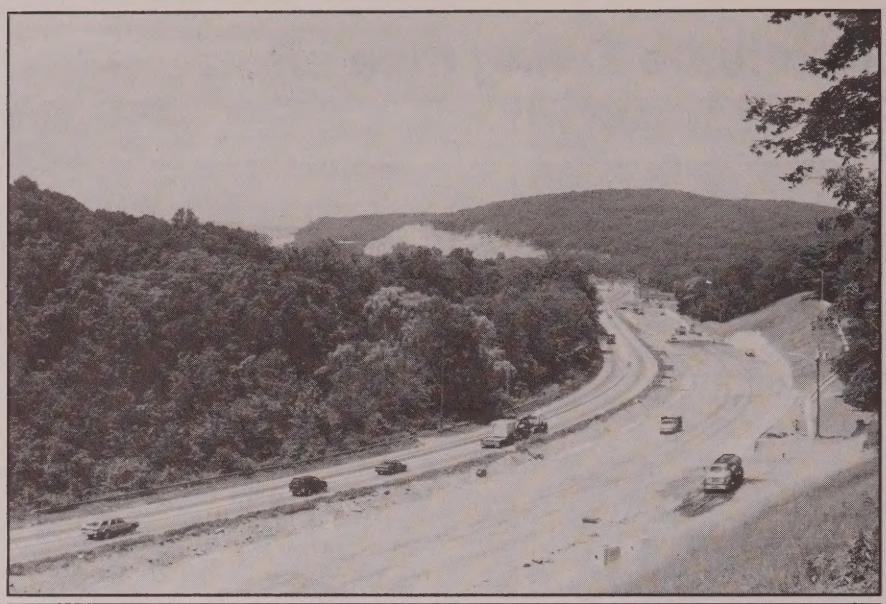
Jennifer Guenzel, daughter of **Charles Geunzel**, Project Engineer, Region I Design, traveled to the Soviet Union as a student ambassador with the People to People Initiative for Understanding program.

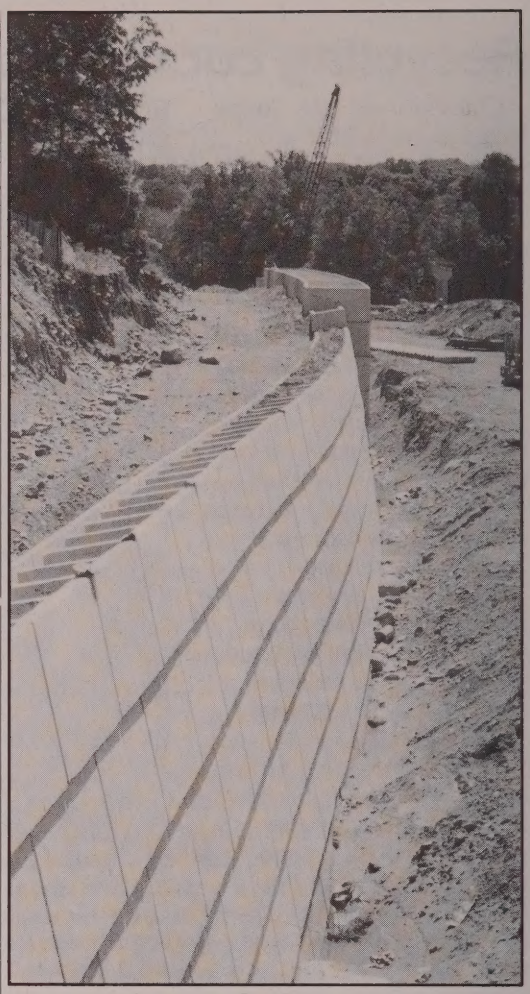
Retirees

Robert Pittenger, Truck Driver, C&M, 39 yrs.; **William Guhl**, Crew Supervisor, Highway Drilling Operation, C&M, 37 yrs.; **Dorothy Andres**, Manager, Bureau of Maintenance Support, C&M, 27 yrs.; **Joseph Manginelli**, Truck Driver, C&M, 22 yrs.; **Mary D. Paul**, Secretarial Assist. III, Human Resources, 14 yrs.; **William Hazell**, Bridge Operator, C&M, 13 yrs.; **Isaac F. Muntz**, Bridge Operator, C&M, 10 yrs.; **Constance Heller**, Pr. Clerk Stenographer, ROW, 8 yrs.

Obituary

Thomas Bareford Hazleton, 76, a retired Senior Right of Way Negotiator, died August 25. Hazleton, who began his career with the department in 1965, worked in the Southern District office until he retired in 1984. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor, a sister, Catherine, and two daughters, Christine and Patricia.





I-287 update: Routing through the Ramapos

The final 20-mile section of I-287 is under way from Montville to the New York State Thruway. Top left, the roadway stretches through the Ramapo Mountains. Left, Resident Engineer Richard Spoerl inspects a realigned rail line and above, a retaining wall stretches along the southbound lane.

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